(b) A total amount of original compensation of Rs.1548.54 crores has been awarded in 57,4,372 cases of all 56 wards. Out of these, 56 wards, 36 wards, were declared as gas affected. Out of the total 5,74,372 awarded cases, 5,69,166 cases pertain to 36 gas affected wards and 5206 cases pertain to remaining 20 wards. In these 20 wards, approximately Rs.13.00 crore was disbursed as compensation.

(c) None.

(d) A proposal for declaring the remaining 20 wards of Bhopal city as gas affected was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal was duly considered by the Group of Ministers on Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in the meetings held on 17th April, 2008 and 11th June, 2008 and the same was not found to be feasible.

Utilization of Sugar Development Fund

†1722. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of sugarcane farmers are credited with the Central Government as Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to use this Fund in sugarcane development and promotion of sugar industries; and

(d) if so, the details of utilization of this Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sugar Development Fund consists of the Proceeds of duty of excise levied and collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India reduced by the cost of collection together with any moneys received by the Central Government for the purpose of sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and any income from investments of such amounts.

(c) and (d) Yes, sir. As per the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983, the funds thereunder are utilised by the Central Government for the following purposes:-

(i) For making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof or the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane in the area in which any sugar factory is situated,

(ii) Making grants for the purpose of any research project aimed at the development of sugar industry.

(iii) For making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for bagasse-based co-generation power projects with a view to improving their viability.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) For making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol with a view to improving their viability.

(v) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar with a view to stabilising price of sugar.

(vi) Defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments sugar.

(vii) Loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for rehabilitation and modernization of sugar factory or for sugarcane development scheme.

(viii) Restructuring of loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof or the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane.

(ix) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of financial assistance to sugar factories towards interest on loans given in terms of any scheme approved by the Central Government from time to time.

(x) Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

Guidelines for issuance of ration cards

1723. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines to State Governments on issuance of ration cards;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines;

(c) whether State Governments have done computerization of the process of issuing ration cards; and

(d) the details of changes brought about by State Governments to prevent misuse of ration cards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and delivery of allocated foodgrains to them through fair price shops are of concerned States and UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been issued by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order and paragraph 2 of annexe to it provide guidelines to the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards